

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

	2006 Actual	2007 CR	2008			Change From 2007 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$000)	7,656	7,656	0	0	7,656	0
FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0

Program Overview

Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) in 1984 to foster partnerships between the private sector and government for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources of the United States. The Foundation runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all federally appropriated dollars the Foundation awards; it has average more than 2:1 in recent years. With Federal dollars from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the Foundation has supported more than 3,100 grants to 1,500 conservation partners, leveraging over \$146 million in Service funds into \$462.2 million for projects that benefit conservation in all 50 states. This appropriation is not used to support the Foundation's administrative expenses and all of the money is direct to on-the-ground conservation.

The Foundation challenge grant model calls for multiple collaborators on each of its grants: The Service and/or the grantee, the matching private funders and the Foundation. The Foundation also requires that each project be reviewed by 5 diverse outside reviewers (federal, state, non-profit, educational, and private sector) and that detailed evaluation protocols are included. By building partnerships among conservation organizations, government, businesses, private organizations, and individuals, the Foundation stimulates new support for on-the-ground conservation, an important niche in conservation funding. The Foundation's pooling of public-private funds creates an incentive-based partnership environment for strategic natural resource investments.

Description of Impacts on Service Goals

The Foundation has developed numerous successful conservation partnerships that have benefited the Service's mission and goals. These partnerships and the positive attention they receive directly benefit the conservation and restoration of our Nation's fish, wildlife, and plants. With the release of the Foundation's new strategic plan, grant programs and funding will now be even more focused on the Service's core mission and programs. For example, the Foundation's Bring Back the Natives program, which contains \$500,000 in Service funds and \$1,250,000 in other Foundation federal funds, is being modified to directly assist the Service in implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This collaboration can also be seen in the development of the Foundation's new Keystone Initiatives. For the new Bird Initiative, the Foundation is working with the Service to ensure that targeted species are of mutual interest. The Foundation is also strengthening its efforts in evaluation to be able to better report back to the Service on the positive outputs and outcomes of its projects and how they promote the overall goals of the Service. The Foundation currently receives approximately three times as many good project proposals as they are able to fund. The full \$7,656,000 is needed to ensure that the Foundation can continue to operate its successful partnership programs and leverage new funds for conservation.